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CORRECTION ISSUED:

7/25/59 2:30 AM, MAU

Control: 14015

Rec'd: JULY 21 1959

5:40 PM

JUL 27 PM 7 27

OFFICE OF  
EMBASSY AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON  
CENTRAL CENTER

*File*  
*See [illegible]*  
*7/27/59*

FROM: BERLIN--CORRECTED COPY PAGE 1.

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 105, JULY 21, 7 PM.

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 105, BONN 98, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 25,  
PARIS 23, PRIORITY GENEVA 39, PRIORITY POLAD USAREUR 15.

GENEVA FOR HILLENBRAND: PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, CINCEUR THURSTON  
AND WEST.

FOLLOWING IS AMPLIFIED ACCOUNT INCIDENT DESCRIBED USCIB'S  
268 TO CINUSAREUR, REAPED INFORMATION CINCEUR PARIS AND  
EMBASSY BONN:

AMERICAN MILITARY FREIGHT TRAIN NO6300 WESTBOUND FROM BERLIN  
MADE ROUTINE STOP POTSDAM RAILROAD YARD (APPROXIMATELY  
5 KM INSIDE SOV ZONE) AT 1937 HOURS JULY 20. AMERICAN TRAIN  
COMMANDER, CAPT. C. P. LAND, OBSERVED EAST GERMAN PERSONNEL  
APPARENTLY INSPECTING TRAIN. DISEMBARKING FOR PURPOSES  
OF INVESTIGATION, LAND SAW TWO EAST GERMAN CUSTOMS POLICEMEN  
NEAR AMERICAN FLAT CAR AND ONE EAST GERMAN CLIMBING ABOARD  
CAR. ALL THREE EAST GERMANS WERE ARMED. CAPT. LAND ORDERED  
EAST GERMAN OFF CAR AND HE COMPLIED IMMEDIATELY. OTHER TWO  
EAST GERMANS APPROACHED AND TOLD LAND HE SHOULD RETURN TO HIS  
CAR IMMEDIATELY AS HE NOT PERMITTED GET OFF TRAIN. LAND REPLIED THEY  
MUST FIRST DESIST FROM EFFORTS BOARD TRAIN. EAST GERMANS STATED THEY  
WERE IN CHARGE AND WOULD TO AS THEY RELEASED. LAND REPLIED THEY  
HAD NO JURISDICTION OVER THIS TRAIN AND REQUESTED SPEAK WITH  
SOV OFFICER. EAST GERMANS STATED THEY WOULD CONFER WITH THEIR  
SUPERIOR AND ONE EAST GERMAN DEPARTED. BEFORE SUPERIOR ARRIVED  
OR OTHER ACTION TAKEN TRAIN DEPARTED POTSDAM (NOT ON ORDERS  
U.S. TRAIN COMMANDER; PRESUMABLY ON INITIATIVE EAST GERMAN  
TRAIN ENGINEER) AND CONTINUED JOURNEY WITHOUT INCIDENT.

Correction made  
by RM/R

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By

NARA Date 12/76

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-2- 105, JULY 21, 7 P.M. FROM BERLIN

BERLIN COMMAND U.S. ARMY REPORTS THAT TRAIN CONSISTED OF 34 CARS ALL CLEARLY MARKED WITH USUAL AMERICAN IDENTIFICATION. TRAIN WAS PROCEEDING ACCORDING FIXED SCHEDULE ON WHICH INFORMATION GIVEN EAST GERMAN REICHSBAHN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE. FLAT CAR BOARDED WAS ONE OF FOUR CARRYING SIGNAL EQUIPMENT (TELEPHONE CABLE AND MICRO-WAVE SPARE PARTS) UNDERSTOOD PROCURED BERLIN FOR U.S. AIR FORCE.

NO RECORD HERE OF PREVIOUS ATTEMPT EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS ATTEMPTING BOARD AMERICAN MILITARY TRAIN. USCOB PROTESTING TO SOV COMMANDANT RE FOREGOING INCIDENT.

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